



Minutes City of Tempe Transportation Commission February 19, 2008

Minutes of the City of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, February 19, 2007, 7:30 a.m., at the Hatton Hall Conference Room, 34 E. Seventh Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Marcellus Lisotta, Jayson Matthews, Catherine Mayorga, Kevin Olson, Amanda Ormond, Edward Smith, David Strang, Marco Valenzuela, Joan Westlake, Corey Woods, Bryan Young

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Don Cassano, Bill Haas, Judi Nelson, Steven Saiz

City Staff Present:

Tanya Chavez, Joe Clements, Dawn Coomer, Carlos de Leon, Eric Hansen, Eric Iwersen, Dana Janofsky, Greg Jordan, Gregg Kent, Carlos de Leon, Amanda Nelson, Bonnie Richardson

Guests Present:

Pen Johnson (Resident)

Jayson Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes

David Strang made a motion to approve all minutes. Catherine Mayorga seconded the motion.

The following minutes were approved as submitted:

- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – December 3, 2007
- Multi-modal Planning & Project Review Committee – December 12, 2007
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – January 7, 2008
- Transportation Commission – January 8, 2008
- Multi-modal Planning & Project Review Committee – January 9, 2008
- Public Involvement/Marketing Committee – February 4, 2008

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Commission Appointments

Edward Smith, the new commission member, presented the following information about himself:

- Native of Phoenix
- ASU alma matter
- Joined Urban League in Chicago and accepted a job at South Suburban College teaching small business courses
- Bought a home in Rocky Point before being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999. Mexican insurance would not cover his condition, and Edward came back to Arizona.
- He has been married twice, and has three children.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Urban Open Space Plan

Eric Hansen provided the following information:

- The information included in the packet was a result of work over 1 ½ years.
- The intent is to approach a period of development and think about how people get through downtown and access light rail while making sure buildings were not put where open space is later needed, and looking at streets as open space.
- The result of the plan is to go over the draft for the next two months for suggestions and corrections.
- Asking commission to look at streets as open spaces and green streets over the next two months.
- Calling for public feedback through the end of March
- Meeting with over 12 commissions over the next month

Jayson Matthews suggests the commission meet in two months to revisit as an Agenda item.

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Bicycle Achievement Award

Marcellus Lisotta provided the following information:

- The Multi-modal Planning & Project Review Committee has formed an annual award to recognize those in the community who has made significant contribution to bicycling in Tempe.
- The program will be managed through the committee with final recommendations by the Transportation Commission.
- Nominations for award recipients will be taken from the public and reviewed by the committee, with final approval by the Transportation Commission.
- Award recipients must be affiliated with Tempe through current or past residence, business or organization.
- The award will be presented in conjunction with annual Tempe Bike Month, at an event and at a City Council meeting.
- The committee would like to nominate the Tempe Bicycle Action Group and is looking to the commission for approval.
- Previous art works could be used as the actual awards.

Amanda Ormond made a motion of approval. Corey Woods seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 6 – Transportation CIP Requests

Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- Capital Improvement Program () projects last five years or more
- CIP projects are broken into sections and shows what transit fund is providing
- Light Rail requesting 10.5 billion
- \$2 million is regionally funded for the Tempe Transit Center
- Traffic calming is at Broadway between Hardy and Mill, and at University between Hardy and Priest.

Carlos de Leon then reviewed the attached list of CIP Requests line by line.

Kevin Olsen suggests that staff provide the commission a comprehensive report on ITS.

Agenda Item 7 – FY2009 Federal Transportation Appropriations Request

Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- Congress approved \$180.93 million in the FY 2008 Transportation Appropriations budget for Valley transportation projects, including the following appropriations in Tempe:
 - \$88.2 million for the Central Phoenix/East Valley LRT project
 - \$1.68 million for East Valley Bus Operations and Maintenance (EVBOM) Facility
- For the FY 2009 appropriations budget, Tempe and Valley Metro are proposing to seek:
 - \$102.4 million for Valley Metro Rail projects
 - \$74.7 million for buses and bus facilities
- Included in the FY 2009 appropriations budget request, Tempe is seeking:
 - \$90 million for the Central Phoenix/East Valley LRT project per the federal transit full funding grant agreement (FFGA).
 - \$3.4 million from Alternatives Analysis funds for the Valley Metro Rail Tempe Extension.
 - \$3.694 million for 10 expansion buses to provide service along Rio Salado Parkway.
 - \$1.467 million for the EVBOM Facility as appropriated in SAFETEA-LU, federal surface transportation act approved in 2006.
 - An additional \$3.398 million discretionary request for EVBOM Facility.
- Amber Wakeman will be presenting Tempe's federal legislative program, which includes the FY2009 appropriations request, to Mayor and Council on February 21, 2008.

Agenda Item 8 – Bus Pass Program Update

Carlos de Leon provided the following information:

- Transitioning to name to “Youth Transit Pass Program” and allow free access to the light rail as well.

Bryan Young made a motion of approval. Marcellus Lisotta seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 9 – LRT Update

Gregg Kent provided the following information:

- Currently updating the community on rail breaks.
- Contractor is exposing rails breaks in sections, and will not affect operation date.
- There are 11 or 12 breaks, which is not out of the ordinary at this point.

Agenda Item 10 – Transportation Center Update

Bonnie Richardson provided the following information:

- Schedule modified due to rain days
- Final date May 20, expecting to move in the beginning of May
- Putting in office walls, carpet, planting the roof, and installing irrigation systems
- Delay in transit shelters, and will not be operating buses until shelters complete
- Will not be having a grand opening in May, tentatively rescheduled for Fall
- Leasing agents have started creating their own flyers

Agenda Item 11 and 12 – ASU Zip Car Update and Surface Transportation Commission

Due to time constraints, Jayson Matthews has moved these items of discussion to next month's meeting.

Agenda Item 13 – Capital Projects Updates

Eric Iwersen provided the following information:

- Western Canal:
 - Approaching construction kick off, in April or May
 - Includes two HAWK crossings
- College Avenue Streetscape:
 - Going back to the neighborhood this spring
- Rio Salado South Bank:
 - Preconstruction conference with the contractor
- Maple Ash/ Mitchell Park:
 - Three neighborhood meetings in December
 - Coming back with updates in March

Agenda Item 14 – Future Agenda Items

Jayson Matthews would like a report on ITS, an ASU Zip Car Update, and discussion regarding Surface Transportation Commission.

David Strang would like a discussion on the Orbit time schedule.

Jayson Matthews declared the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m, and made an announcement that the March meeting would be cancelled. The commission will meet again in April.

The Commission's next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 7:30 a.m. in the City of Tempe Public Works Conference Room, 31 E. Fifth St., Garden Level West Wing.

Prepared by:
Amber Miller

Reviewed by:

Carlos de Leon
Deputy Public Works Manager